



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$34,360 Settlement Reached with Hydrochem Industrial Services, Inc.

Berkeley --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has reached a settlement with Hydrochem Industrial Services, Inc. (Hydrochem) for hazardous waste violations at its facilities located at 901 Loveridge Road in Pittsburg, Contra Costa County and at 301 Crenshaw Boulevard in Torrance, Los Angeles County.

Under terms of the Consent Order (Order) signed in August 2004, Hydrochem will pay a total of \$34,360 to DTSC of which \$29,924 is a penalty and \$4,436 is for costs incurred by DTSC. A copy of the Order formalizing the settlement is available on the DTSC Web site at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Hydrochem/HYDROCHEM_ENF_CO.pdf.

The settlement stems from a DTSC investigation in April 2003 where DTSC evaluated Hydrochem's compliance with state regulations regarding closure of three transportable treatment units (TTUs) used to treat hazardous waste at various sites. Two of the TTUs were located at the Pittsburg facility and the third was located at the Torrance facility.

DTSC found that Hydrochem failed to submit proper certification to DTSC that the closure of the TTUs met or exceeded state regulations. Hydrochem dismantled parts of the TTUs to repair other treatment units, and has sold or otherwise transferred ownership of what was left. Therefore Hydrochem could not certify that the three TTUs were properly closed. DTSC has determined that the units remain improperly closed under California law and has issued the appropriate Order.

DTSC will reduce Hydrochem's penalties by \$5,000 after three of its employees successfully complete the California Compliance School (CCS). CCS provides students with "hands-on" instruction on how to comply with hazardous waste statutes and regulations. Hydrochem must submit certificates of completion to DTSC within 185 days of the effective date of this Order to receive the penalty reduction.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.